



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE INSTITUTE FOR OPERATIONAL HEALTH (AFMC)
BROOKS CITY-BASE TEXAS**

21 September 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR (Sentinel Site)

FROM: AFIOH/RSR
2513 Kennedy Circle
Brooks City-Base TX 78235-5116

SUBJECT: DoD Global Influenza Surveillance Program Welcome Packet

1. On behalf of the DoD Global Influenza Surveillance Program, I would like to thank you for your participation as a sentinel site for the upcoming 2004–2005 influenza surveillance season. The data gathered from your site will be used to track influenza activity, produce new influenza vaccines, and monitor the emergence of new influenza strains.
2. Enclosed in this welcome packet are the following:
 - (a) This welcome letter
 - (b) A PowerPoint presentation for Public Health Officers that gives an overview of our program, plus the role and responsibilities of sentinel sites in regards to influenza surveillance
 - (c) A PowerPoint presentation for providers at your MTF. It covers many of the same points as the previous presentation, but is geared to providers. It is recommended you brief your providers using this presentation to familiarize them with the program and ensure compliance in submitting specimens
 - (d) An influenza questionnaire that providers should fill out and submit with specimens
 - (e) An influenza information sheet for patients, in standard document format
 - (f) The same information sheet for patients, but in a format that can be folded into a trifold brochure
3. A memo from Linda Canas, head of the virology laboratory at AFIOH, detailing submission procedures for specimens shipped to the AFIOH laboratory is in this welcome packet.
4. Please note that our collection procedures have changed. In light of the increasing threat of avian influenza in Asia, AFIOH is currently developing PCR testing to rapidly screen specimens for avian influenza. Preliminary studies at our laboratory demonstrate that, for PCR testing, nasal washes are significantly more sensitive than throat swabs. For this reason, we feel it is important to collect nasal washings over throat swabs. **Nasal washings are particularly important in the Asia/Pacific region.** Details on how to perform a nasal wash are in the PowerPoint presentations included in this welcome packet.

5. We look forward to working with you in this cooperative surveillance effort and invite any questions or comments you may have. My POC is Captain Scott Fujimoto at Brooks City-Base TX. Phone: 210-536-1788 (DSN 240-1788). E-mail: scott.fujimoto@brooks.af.mil.

CANDACE L. McCALL, Lt Col, USAF, BSC
Chief, Risk Assessment Division

6 Attachments:

1. 2004-2005 Influenza Sentinel Overview (PowerPoint)
2. 2004-2005 Influenza Provider Overview (PowerPoint)
3. Influenza Questionnaire
4. Influenza Patient Information Sheet
5. Influenza Patient Information Sheet (trifold)
6. Laboratory Memo